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SUB THEME 3

Lead Conveners:

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Unlocking the
Potential of
Groundwater
for the poor

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Concept:

Water is unique national resource since it is not merely intended for human consumption, but it is also a source of fishing stocks and energy to name a few. One of Africa's "unending" capacity development challenges is water governance for governmental and sector professionals in countries. This is in such a manner that all Member States are developing National Water Plans, and in so doing, are routinely improving good water governance in their respective nations, while they might have with neighbouring States.

The first emphasis on a nexus approach to water security is meant to facilitate the dialogue between the water, energy, and agriculture sectors. It is critical to pay attention on how resources are allocated such that water, energy, and agriculture and urbanizing population given the additional pressures of climate change.

The other emphasis is the recognition that good water governance, particularly as it relates to transboundary water resources, is essential for harmonious and sustainable development, and to water conflict avoidance, cooperation and water security.

[Translate »](#)

Sub theme 3 will feature sessions that:

- Promote the water, food, energy and climate nexus in national development planning
- Support the creation of an enabling environment for regional cooperation on shared waters in all major capacity building, and gender and youth mainstreaming in water governance.
- Promote cooperative arrangements/institutions to implement the African Water Vision 2025 and the Sustainable Development Goal for Water and sanitation SDG 6 in all major river/lake/aquifer basins.
- Provide guidance to help local institutions establish and operate basin-wide physical monitoring, data systems.

Sessions

No. 1	Title	A hybrid approach to water legislation in Africa
Mon	Convener	International Water Management Institute and Pegasys Institute
29th Oct	Co-	National Water Authorities Kenya, Uganda, other (tbc)
14.00 –	Convener(s)	
15.30	Contacts	Timothy Williams (t.o.williams@cgiar.org)
	Objectives	To discuss the possibility of using a hybrid suite of water rights tools to enable African states to manage water use effectively in support of national development goals and protection of the vulnerable.
	Description	<p>Water law reforms in Africa since the 1990s have resulted in national water use permit systems being promulgated. However, implementation of these systems carries an immense administrative burden, well beyond the capacity of the state. The design of these systems and failure to implement have resulted in the criminalization of millions of small-scale rural water users who have invested in water infrastructure for self-supply and who are governed by customary water arrangements. Research and policy dialogue with the water authorities of Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zimbabwe has shown how a suite of water rights instruments can be used to create an implementable, developmental, and effective water rights system which can effectively regulate and generate revenue from the few high-impact users, while supporting rural communities' customary investments and sharing arrangements. Some of these tools already exist in the statutory water laws but have not been used effectively. Others may need legislative amendments. The study was implemented by Pegasys Institute and the International Water Management Institute, supported by the REACH program.</p> <p>In the proposed session, chaired by Dr. T.O. Williams, the findings from the research and policy dialogues will be presented and comments will be solicited from water authorities and participants.</p>

No. 2 Mon 29th Oct	Title	Integrating Gender Equality and Female Empowerment in IWRM as a Strategy for Achieving Water Security
16.00 – 17.30	Convener(s)	RUNESCO-IHP
	Co-Convener(s)	UNESCO WWAP
	Contacts	Renée GIFT (r.gift@unesco.org); Michela MILETTO (m.miletto@unesco.org)
	Objectives	To highlight the crucial importance of integrating gender equality and empowerment of women in the management of water resources as a precursor to the achievement of water security.
	Description	<p>Gender inequality in the access to, management, and use of water remains a critical issue in many countries, and continues to result in harmful socio-economic consequences for women and girls. For this reason, gender equality continues to be one of UNESCO's global priorities and cuts across UNESCO-IHP's Eighth Strategy targeted at achieving water security. The UNESCO Water Family is an important part of UNESCO's work toward achieving this strategy. Among the water family include the UNESCO Chair in Water, Women and Decision-making of Côte d'Ivoire, which will share with other African countries, its experience on gender mainstreaming in water management in rural areas. UNESCO WWAP will also launch its updated Toolkit on Water and Gender for mainstreaming gender considerations into policies on water, which will include relevant new gender responsive indicators for water assessments in light of the Agenda 2030 and SDG 6 targets.</p> <p>Presentations:</p> <p>Prioritizing gender in the implementation of UNESCO's strategy on water security (15 mins) Abou Amani, UNESCO-IHP</p> <p>The WWAP toolkit on water and gender (30 mins) : Michela MILETTO, UNESCO WWAP</p> <p>Mainstreaming gender in water management in rural areas (30 mins): Euphrasie KOUASSI YAO, UNESCO Chair on Water, Women and Decision-making, Côte d'Ivoire</p> <p>Questions and discussion (15 mins) Moderator / Rapporteur: nRenée Gift, UNESCO</p>
No. 3 Tue 30th Oct	Title	Fostering scientific and technical capacities and competencies in Africa's Water Sector through the AU-NEPAD Water Centers of Excellence
	Lead	UNESCO IHP

09.00 – 10.30	Convener	
	Co-Convener(s)	European Commission – Joint Research Centre
	Contacts	Murray Biedler, UNESCO Liaison Office, Brussels Belgi
	Objectives	Shaped within the interface between science and policy where the AU-NEPAD Water Centers of Excellence are placed, the session will introduce and discuss the current challenges, demands, constraints and perspectives of the Human and Scientific Capacity Development in the African Water Sector.
	Description	<i>The Session will introduce the ACEWATER Programme currently being implemented by the AU-NEPAD Water Centres of Excellence (CoEs) and coordinated by the EC Joint Research Centre and UNESCO IHP. ACEWATER Programme fits well into the Sub Theme of Governance, especially in terms of IWRM and cooperation with its activities on transboundary river basins. Currently, three large research programs are addressing WEF nexus challenges and features across large river basins in Africa (Zambezi, Senegal, Niger and Nile). Sessions addressing this topic contribute to creating enabling environments for regional cooperation on shared water bodies and aquifers. To address Key Actors and Stakeholders more specifically, sessions will also introduce activities building regional cooperation in both research and educational institutions with the AU's NEPAD Networks of African Water CoEs, the Regional Economic Commissions and the African Ministers Council of Water (AMCOW). Finally, to address the UN's Sustainable Development Goal for Water and Sanitation, SDG 6, the session will present the NEPAD CoEs activities of Human Capacity Development in Africa's Water Sector, which aims to identify Human Capacity Gaps in both the Water Sector and the capacity of educational Institutions.</i>

No. 4 Tue 30th Oct	Title	Maximising the Benefits from SWA High Level Political dialogue: Getting ready for 2019 SWA Sector Ministers Meeting (SMM).
	Convener	SWA
11.00 – 12.30	Co-Convener(s)	Ethiopia, AfDB, AMCOW, Senegal, BMGF, UNICEF
	Contacts	Nelson Gomonda: nelson.gomonda@sanitationandwaterforall.org
	Objectives	The session will provide participants with an opportunity to discuss and share experiences to maximise benefits from SWA SMM as a platform for political dialogue on SDG 6 and contribute to the nexus approach. The Sessions will also be part of the preparations for the

SWA High Level Meeting planned to take place in the Second Quarter of 2019 so that Ministers arrive at the SMM prepared.

Description	<p>SWA Partnership is working to catalyse political leadership and action, improve accountability and use scarce resources more effectively at various levels. Through the SMM, SWA has promoted political dialogue on WASH within sector ministries charged with extending WASH services to catalyze political leadership and action, improve accountability and use scarce resources more effectively within the broader commitment to achieve universal access to sanitation, safe drinking water, and hygiene, and elimination of inequalities.</p> <p>The SMM, attended by ministers responsible for water, sanitation and hygiene (including Ministries of Water, Health, Rural Development and other ministries) provide them with an opportunity to explore the nexus and WASH+ approaches, share and learn from others' experiences and discuss new ideas as they progress towards national SDG targets. The SMMs has also served as a platform for SWA partners to present and report on commitments they made under at country and regional levels.</p> <p>As part of the preparations for the 2019 SMM, comprehensive discussions and reviews will be expected to take place at country level through the regular review processes, such as regular sector performance reviews and joint sector reviews (JSRs) to inform decision on choices, approaches and actions for achieving SDG targets on sanitation and hygiene.</p>												
No. 5 Tue 30th Oct 14.00 – 15.30	<table> <tr> <td data-bbox="259 1310 430 1347">Title</td><td data-bbox="487 1310 1487 1390">Promoting Youth Engagement in Water Governance through Youth-Led Research and Innovation</td></tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="259 1418 430 1455">Conveners</td><td data-bbox="487 1418 1487 1498">UNESCO-IHP and International Science Council Regional Office for Africa</td></tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="259 1526 430 1606">Co-Convener(s)</td><td data-bbox="487 1526 1487 1606"></td></tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="259 1634 430 1670">Contacts</td><td data-bbox="487 1634 1487 1714">Nicole Webley, n.webley@unesco.org and Daniel Nyanganyura d.nyanganyura@icsu-africa.org</td></tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="259 1742 430 1778">Objectives</td><td data-bbox="487 1742 1487 1864">To present and discuss youth research and innovation for achieving SDG 6 in Africa as a way of Mainstreaming youth engagement in Water Governance.</td></tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="259 1892 430 1929">Description</td><td data-bbox="487 1892 1487 2020"><i>There are 1.8 billion young people aged between 10 and 24, which is the largest youth population ever. They make up almost a quarter of the world's total population and ninety percent of them live in</i></td></tr> </table>	Title	Promoting Youth Engagement in Water Governance through Youth-Led Research and Innovation	Conveners	UNESCO-IHP and International Science Council Regional Office for Africa	Co-Convener(s)		Contacts	Nicole Webley, n.webley@unesco.org and Daniel Nyanganyura d.nyanganyura@icsu-africa.org	Objectives	To present and discuss youth research and innovation for achieving SDG 6 in Africa as a way of Mainstreaming youth engagement in Water Governance.	Description	<i>There are 1.8 billion young people aged between 10 and 24, which is the largest youth population ever. They make up almost a quarter of the world's total population and ninety percent of them live in</i>
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developing countries. The power of 1.8 billion people cannot be ignored and their engagement or lack thereof will determine if the SDGs are achieved and if the development agenda leaves no one behind. Additionally, Africa has the youngest population in the world and 'ten of the world's youngest countries' are in Africa. Africa's youthful population can be viewed as an opportunity for economic growth and/or a challenge if Africa does not plan for, or seize this opportunity. Africa is a global priority for UNESCO and youth is a priority group for the organization.

In keeping with UNESCO's strategy of viewing Youth and Young Scientists not just as beneficiaries but as essential actors in finding solutions to the challenges they face. Youth are often just as active within their local communities as young water professionals; however, they sometimes face challenges with connecting with global networks. UNESCO-IHP recognizes youth and young water professionals as leaders, knowledge-holders (including indigenous knowledge) and innovators who can provide solutions for the achievement of SDG 6 and consequently, supports their participation in global water governance and decision-making processes.

Youth engagement in water governance is essential for water security and the achievement of SDG 6. However, it is now important to move beyond the recognition of the contribution of young scientists, to finding ways to mainstream the application of their innovation and the use of the knowledge and data they produced in policy processes at all levels. In this regard, the Youth Statement of the World Water Forum, called for increasing seed funding opportunities to support youth-led initiatives for scientific and technologically driven projects. It also recommended creating, "legitimate spaces for the representation, inclusion and participation of young people and youth groups in high level political, decision-making and organizational processes." The Africa water week presents a great opportunity to follow up on the decision of WWF and showcase youth research and innovation in Africa in the water sector.

No. 6	Title	IWRM in Africa: Lessons learnt from AWF's operations
Tue	Convener	AfDB
30th Oct	Co-Convener(s)	ANBO, INBO, GWP, CIWA
16.00 – 17.30	Contacts	Francis D. BOUGAIRE (f.bougair@afdb.org)
	Objectives	Following its substantial interventions in transboundary water resources management and development since inception, the AWF has recently documented its experiences with a view to improving effectiveness of future interventions and share emerging insights with

other stakeholders. This session will help share knowledge and lessons learnt, in order to contribute to improving IWRM practices in a transboundary context and improving interaction with Basin organizations, in the ever-changing landscape of sustainable development

Description	<p>The session will provide an overview of the lessons learnt from AWF's operations with several Basin organizations in Africa to increase the efficiency of interventions in the sector. Potential speakers include representatives of different organizations that also support Basin organizations in Africa, such as ANBO, INBO, GWP, and CIWA. The session begins with an introduction from the Moderator (5 mn), followed by a key note address providing an overview of the IWRM operations supported by AWF and the lessons learnt following completion of these projects (20mn). It with then followed up by a panel discussion presenting views and experiences from ANBO, INBO, GWP and CIWA (20mn) and the way forward.</p> <p>The panel discussions will be followed by a "Questions and Answers Session" (40 min) followed by the Closing remarks (5 min).</p>
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No. 7 Thurs 1st Nov	Title	How legal and institutional frameworks for transboundary water cooperation support governance and development
	Conveners	UNECE
09.00 – 10.30	Co- Convener(s)	ANBO, AMCOW, Green Cross International, IUCN (tbc), WWF, Senegal, Chad
	Contacts	Sonja Koeppel, Sonja.Koeppel@un.org
	Objectives	The session aims to analyse the benefits for development, regional integration and peace of legal and institutional frameworks for transboundary water cooperation at the global, regional and basin level and present the latest developments on the African continent. In particular, the experiences and lessons learned of the development of water agreement as well as recent accessions to Global Conventions will be highlighted.
	Description	While there has been significant progress in Africa in recent years, as shown by the first reporting on SDG indicator 6.5.2 which measures transboundary water cooperation, a significant number of transboundary basins do not have adequate agreements and institutions. Many existing river basin organizations face important challenges, e.g. with financing their operation, securing development

and investments in the basin etc. The governance situation is even less advanced for transboundary aquifers.

This session will analyse how the legal and institutional frameworks at the global, regional and basin level foster transboundary water cooperation, improved water governance, sustainable development, regional integration and peace in Africa and what are the challenges ahead.

It will present the experiences of the new Parties to the Helsinki Water Convention, latest developments regarding transboundary water cooperation at the sub-regional and basin level in Africa and analyse challenges, considering also basins with tensions over shared waters. It will include a discussion among the different actors involved, such as governments, regional economic communities, river basin organizations and others.

No. 8	Title	Session by Host Government on Water Governance
Thurs		
1st Nov	Convener(s)	Ministry of Water and Energy, Gabon
11.00 –	Co-	
12.30	Convener(s)	
	Contacts	
	Objectives	
	Description	
No. 9	Title	Promote sustainable groundwater resources management within the framework of IWRM in L/RBOs and RECs
Thurs		
1st Nov	Convener(s)	UNESCO-IHP
14.00 –	Co-	
15.30	Convener(s)	ANBO, AMCOW, BGR, UNECE (TBC)
	Contacts	Tales Carvalho Resende (t.carvalho-resende@unesco.org)
	Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote sustainable groundwater resources management within the framework of IWRM in Lake and River Basin Organizations (L/RBOs), Regional Economic Commissions (RECs) and/or cooperative frameworks for transboundary groundwater management. • Make groundwater resources in Africa more “visible” to water managers who are required to manage it sustainably, Raise awareness on the importance of groundwater resource to Africa.
	Description	<i>This session aims at providing participants with elements to strengthen the coordination and collaboration capacity of African Lake</i>

and River Basin Organisations (L/RBOs), Regional Economic Commissions (RECs) and cooperative frameworks for transboundary groundwater management. It will do so through a moderated (panel) discussion with interactive involvement of the audience in order to share experiences from Africa and discuss current challenges such as development / integration of groundwater resources in institutional structures such as L/RBOs and RECs. This session will also be the launch of a Special Edition of the UNESCO-BGR WHYMAP Groundwater Resources of Africa Map.

- Promote sustainable groundwater resources management within the framework of IWRM in Lake and River Basin Organizations (L/RBOs), Regional Economic Commissions (RECs) and/or cooperative frameworks for transboundary groundwater management.
- Make groundwater resources in Africa more “visible” to water managers who are required to manage it sustainably,
- Raise awareness on the importance of groundwater resource to Africa.

Opening remarks (5 min): Hamet Baba Ly, Secretary General of the Ministry of Hydraulics and Sanitation (Senegal), UNESCO-IHP Chair

Launch of the Special Edition of the UNESCO-BGR WHYMAP Groundwater Resources of Africa Map (15 min)
Stefan Broda (BGR) and Jayakumar Ramasamy (UNESCO)

Overview of the consideration of groundwater resources in L/RBOs and RECs (10 min)
Tales Carvalho Resende (UNESCO-IHP)

The importance of groundwater for the African Network of Basin Organizations (ANBO) (15 min)
Amadou Lamine Ndiaye, OMVS/ANBO

Integrating groundwater governance in RBOs: The ORASECOM example
ORASECOM (Lenka Thamae)

Discussion

No. 10 Thurs 1st Nov	Title	Influencing Policy and Practice – the Africa Groundwater Commission and Research for Development
	Convener	AMCOW with UPGro (c/o Skat Foundation)
16.00 – 17.30	Co- Convener(s)	UPGro is a programme of Universities and Research Institutions, together with the Africa Groundwater Network, International

	Association of Hydrogeologists, in partnership with country-level African water management institutions.
Contacts	Sean Furey (sean.furey@skat.ch); Dr Andrew Bullock (andybullock61@btinternet.com);
Objectives	Based on its past and current status, AMCOW will present a future trajectory for the Africa Groundwater Commission. One key role will be to influence policy and practice around groundwater. UPGro will share experiences of Research for Development with a view to framing support to support operationalisation of the Commission.
Description	<i>The Africa Groundwater Commission is mandated by the African Union within the framework of the Africa Water Vision 2025 to help create “An Africa where groundwater resources are valued and utilized sustainably by empowered stakeholders”. On one hand, it is one arm of the established governance of the AU and AMCOW. The session will feature short presentations and panel discussion with leaders from research, government and international cooperation to highlight the key challenges for water management where stronger collaboration on bringing groundwater knowledge into policy and practice can deliver value through this established African instrument.</i>

ABOUT AWW-7

The 7th Africa Water Week (AWW-7) holds from October 29th to November 2nd 2018 at the Salle Ouest, Stade de l'Amitié (Friendship Stadium), Libreville, Gabon.
Details and Registration...

ORGANIZERS

AMCOW
AUC
GABON

FOR ENQUIRIES

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